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By: **Delegate Exum**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 1998

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Service Companies - Lobbying Expenses**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring certain public service companies to calculate certain  
4 lobbying and political expenses incurred during a certain period; and requiring  
5 the public service companies to offer certain refunds of certain lobbying and  
6 political expenses in certain manners.

7 BY adding to

8 Article - Public Utility Companies

9 Section 4-104

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (As enacted by Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ (S.B. 1) of the Acts of the General Assembly of

12 1998)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF

14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article - Public Utility Companies**

16 4-104.

17 (A) A PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY THAT BILLS A CUSTOMER ON A PERIODIC  
18 BASIS SHALL CALCULATE:

19 (1) THE EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY IN  
20 LOBBYING AND OTHER POLITICAL ACTIVITIES WITH RESPECT TO THE FEDERAL,  
21 STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS EVERY 6 MONTHS PAID FROM REVENUES  
22 DERIVED FROM ITS CUSTOMERS OF SERVICES REGULATED BY THE COMMISSION;  
23 AND

24 (2) THE LOBBYING AND POLITICAL EXPENSES ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE  
25 CUSTOMER, BY MULTIPLYING THE EXPENSES FOR THE 6-MONTH PERIOD UNDER  
26 PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION BY THE COST OF REGULATED SERVICES BILLED  
27 TO THE CUSTOMER AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL REGULATED SERVICES PROVIDED  
28 DURING THE 6-MONTH PERIOD.

1 (B) EVERY 6 MONTHS, THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY SHALL OFFER TO THE  
2 CUSTOMER ON THE BILLING STATEMENT THE OPTION TO OBTAIN A REFUND OF THE  
3 LOBBYING AND POLITICAL EXPENSES ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE CUSTOMER  
4 CALCULATED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(2) OF THIS SECTION, EITHER AS A CREDIT ON  
5 THE CUSTOMER'S NEXT BILLING STATEMENT, OR AS A PAYMENT TO THE CUSTOMER.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
7 October 1, 1998.